

Town Meeting Coordinating Committee
Meeting of Friday, September 25, 2009
Bangs Community Center, room 101

Attendance: Peggy Roberts, Nonny Burack, Harry Brooks, Mary Streeter, Carol Gray (arrived 5:00), Rob Crowner; absent: Dorwenda Bynum-Lewis

1. Peggy calls the meeting to order at 4:39pm.
2. Minutes of previous meeting: Nonny moves, Mary seconds to accept the minutes of 9/11/09 with amendments and the committee approves without objection.
3. Budget presentation subcommittee: Peggy reports on her and Nonny's appearance at the Finance Committee meeting of September 17, 2009. The FC indicated a willingness to participate in the subcommittee, providing a list of questions it hopes to address, but are at least as concerned that education on budget issues take place. The Select Board has designated Stephanie O'Keeffe and Gerry Weiss as its representatives.

The committee discusses making the budget the topic of the Spring 2010 informational forum. This might be done every year, so long as it does not become a platform for advocacy of the specific budget to be moved at town meeting. Mary suggests taping a generic explanation of the budget to show periodically, defining terms and describing process without including details for any given year. Peggy states that the well-received LWV presentation is likely way out of date and should be redone, and notes that the advantage of a public forum is that people can ask questions.

The committee names Nonny and Mary to be its representatives to the subcommittee.

4. Warrant review: Peggy reports that Harrison Gregg is not able to attend the scheduled warrant review on October 14, 2009, initiating a discussion of possible substitutes that ends with a decision to ask the chairs of TMCC and Amherst LWV to co-host.

Peggy distributes a preliminary list of fifteen articles for the warrant. Since there are not many, some of which are of the housekeeping variety, there should be more time for presentation and discussion. Carol suggests allowing both majority and minority viewpoints to be presented so that differences can be made plain in advance. The committee briefly discusses possible presenters.

The warrant review is scheduled for Wednesday, October 14, 2009 at 7:30pm in the Middle School auditorium.

5. Information forum: Carol reports that a planner from Northampton seems willing to speak at the forum. She has also contacted various people and organizations involved in smart growth in Vermont and Massachusetts. The committee briefly discusses ideas for the forum.

The informational forum is scheduled for Tuesday, October 27 at 7:30 in the Town Room.

6. Labels for TM packet: Mary reports that John Musante (via Kate Seaman) has approved a draft of the TMCC sticker for the packet. The committee approves a final version with minor alterations. Mary states that she offered on behalf of TMCC to assist in stuffing packets and applying the stickers, but Kate has an intern who will take care of it. Kate has requested that all materials be delivered to her before October 5, 2009.

7. Bus tour: Harry reports that a bus has been reserved and contact information secured. The committee discusses whether there will be enough locations to visit to make a bus tour worthwhile,

and Mary notes that a decision needs to be made before the sticker is printed. Carol states that the committee needs to be involved in warrant planning meetings in order to know what some articles are about. After identifying a number of relevant destinations, the committee agrees to proceed with the bus tour.

Harry agrees to line up ACTV coverage for the warrant review, the informational forum, and the bus tour.

8. Precinct meetings: Mary reports that Marks Meadow has been secured for the Precincts 1, 2, and 3 meeting. The committee approves a slightly modified design for the flyer for the first packet mailing to Town Meeting members, the reverse of which will advertise the warrant review and the bus tour, with a "save the date" notice for the informational forum. More details about the forum can be included in the second TM mailing.

9. Publicity for TMCC events: Rob agrees to send a press release to the newspapers (*Amherst Bulletin*, *Daily Hampshire Gazette*, *Springfield Republican*). Mary will post on the town website calendar. Harry will post on ACTV.

10. The meeting is adjourned at 6:01pm. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, October 2, 2009.

Respectfully submitted,
Rob Crowner

Documents distributed at the meeting:

1. agenda
2. draft minutes of September 11, 2009
3. memo from Kay Moran about ad hoc budget presentation committee
4. draft list of Fall TM warrant articles
5. draft precinct meeting flyer